

February 26, 2023

Dear S. Anwar and C. McCarthy Vahey (co-chairs), Vice Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Public Health Committee,

I am writing in OPPOSITION to SB01076.

As a veteran of nearly 37 years in health care with experiences ranging from a decade in the intensive care unit as nurse to recent work as a nurse practitioner in Radiation Oncology, which is a subspeciality of cancer care, I join national medical and nursing organizations in opposing assisted suicide legislation which is the essence of SB01076, Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients.

In addition to my professional experience, I have personal experience with family members who died from terminal cancer, cardiomyopathy, an autoimmune illness affecting the brain and also a family member with chronic pulmonary disease. I myself have a chronic illness which will become terminal in the future, thus I can speak to my opposition against SB01076 from several perspectives.

In my undergraduate years, I studied history extensively and learned that humans can learn much from observing and studying the past. Aid in dying (assisted suicide) bills passed in other states such as Oregon, Washington and California and internationally Canada and the Netherlands demonstrate that such legislation creates a 'slippery slope' with unintended consequences such as inclusion of patients with mental illness (anorexia nervosa, for example) and children while easing the way for euthanasia legislation.

We can do better in caring for our loved ones by providing excellent, compassionate, effective medical and mental health care. This is what our loved ones really desire and need, not termination of life prematurely.

I oppose SB01076.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion.

Lisa Hoffer, APRN, FNP-BC